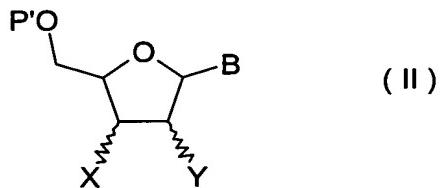


Please replace the Abstract of the Disclosure with the following:

**Abstract of the Disclosure:**

A process for preparing 2',3'-didehydro-2',3'-dideoxynucleosides and 2',3'-dideoxynucleosides is described, which comprises the reductive elimination reaction of a compound of formula



in which X, Y, P' is H or a protecting group and B is a natural or modified, optionally substituted purine or pyrimidine base or a five- or six-membered monocyclic or eleven- or twelve-membered bicyclic, optionally substituted heterocyclic system containing at least one nitrogen atom,  
by reaction with zinc metal and a suitable activating agent,  
characterized in that the divalent zinc is removed by precipitation, from an organic phase, of the corresponding zinc sulfide, by adding a solution of a mineral sulfide to the organic phase.